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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/802,450	03/17/2004	Tsai-Sheng Chiu	250915-1030	4016

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EXAMINER

SCHNEIDER, JOSHUA D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2182

DATE MAILED: 05/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/802,450	Applicant(s) CHIU, TSAI-SHENG	
	Examiner Joshua D. Schneider	Art Unit 2182	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 10/802,458.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The specification does not teach how a peripheral device can integrate a printer and a mouse together, much less any of the other listed devices. It would seem that these devices should be listed in the alternative as the incorporation is not taught.

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

6. With regards to claims 1-3 and 9-11, it is unclear what a USB slot encompasses. The USB specification does not define a USB slot. The specification of the instant application does

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not make it clear what a USB slot encompasses. The term is different than the standard USB port connector, but also seems to point to the connectors that seem to have nothing to do with the USB protocol.

7. With regards to claim 4, it is unclear what the limitation of a plate encompasses other than an implied flatness.

8. Dependant claims 2-14 are rejected for incorporating the same indefinite subject matter of the independent claim upon which they depend.

9. All further rejections are made in light of the specification as best understood in view of the previous objections and rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

10. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

11. Claims 1-12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,669,513 to Huang.

12. With regards to claim 1, Huang teaches a housing (Fig. 1, element 1); and an integrated circuit board, disposed the housing, comprising a plurality universal serial bus slots thereon (Fig. 2, elements 161 of 16, 16', and 16'').

13. With regards to claim 2, Huang teaches a first peripheral device, detachably connected to one of the universal serial bus slots (Fig. 2, elements 21-25).

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14. With regards to claim 3, Huang teaches the first peripheral device comprises a converter and first universal serial bus connector (Fig. 2, elements 21-24), inserted into one of the universal serial bus slots, such that signals of the first peripheral device are converted to universal serial bus signals by the converter (column 2, lines 34-37).

15. With regards to claim 4, Huang teaches the first peripheral device is shaped into plate (Fig. 2, elements 21-24).

16. With regards to claim 5-8, Huang teaches the first peripheral device comprises a hard disk drive, an optical disk drive, modem, and a floppy disk drive. However, the incorporation of the USB protocol and the use of USB ports inherently teach that these peripherals are taught to be connectable to a USB port.

17. With regards to claims 9 and 10, Huang must inherently teach the integrated device further comprising a central processing device, detachably connected to one the universal serial bus slots, such that signals of the central processing device are converted to universal serial bus signals by the converter (Fig. 2, elements 21-24). Huang does not explicitly teach having a central processing device, but such a processing device is inherently necessary to convert the signals from USB signal to Ethernet or video signals.

18. With regards to claim 11, Huang teaches further comprising a universal serial bus port disposed in the housing and a second peripheral device, connected to the integrated circuit board through the universal serial bus port (Fig. 2, element 25).

19. With regards to claim 12, Huang teaches the second peripheral device comprises a hub (Fig. 2, element 25).

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20. With regards to claim 14, Huang teaches an opening (Fig. 2, element 161), corresponding the integrated circuit board in the housing (must inherently have an opening for connector to be connected).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

21. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

22. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,669,513 to Huang in further view of U.S. Patent 6,549,966 to Dickens et al.

23. With regards to claim 13, Huang fails to teach the integrated circuit board further comprises a second universal serial bus connector for connection with other computers. However, Dickens teaches a USB data routing system that takes USB signals from multiple computer to connect to a variety of peripheral devices, including other USB devices and devices of different protocols (column 1, line 50, through column 2, line 65). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the multiple computer accessing of Dickens with the USB expansion of Huang in order to allow sharing of expensive peripherals between multiple devices.

Conclusion

24. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0135681 to Laity et al. teaches the use of expansion ports in a USB extension device. U.S. Patent 6,462,953 to Tong et al. teaches a

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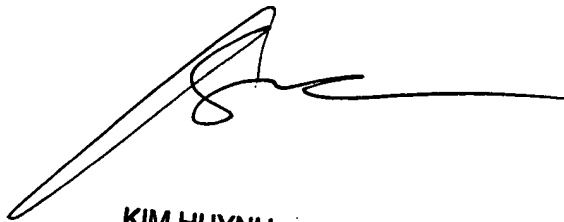
housing that accepts integrated circuits for expanding a USB connection. U.S. Patent 5,706,179 to Palatov teaches a housing that has a circuit board for passing a signal.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua D. Schneider whose telephone number is (571) 272-4158. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Huynh can be reached on (571) 272-4147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JDS



KIM HUYNH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
4/29/06